

R E M A R K S

Claims 27 through 49 are in the application, with claims 1 through 26 having been cancelled, and with claims 27 through 49 having been added. Claims 27, 33, 40, and 46 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/022356 ("Cui"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

Applicants hereby state that the present application and the CUI published patent application (US Publication No. 2003/022356) were, at the time the present invention was made, commonly owned by Intel Corporation, the Assignee of the present application.

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Claims 27, 33, 40, and 46

Independent claim 27 describes a system comprising a first sub-conference node, a second sub-conference node, a storage device, a mixing controller, and a mixer. The storage device is to comprise a party information table. The mixer is to select at least a first portion of conference information and a second portion of conference information received from the first sub-conference node and the second sub-conference node based on the party information table and the mixing controller. Furthermore, the mixer is to transmit the first portion of information to the first sub-conference node at a first time slot and to transmit the second portion of information to the second sub-conference node at a second time slot.

The art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest the above-mentioned features of independent claim 27. In particular, the art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest transmitting a first portion of information to a first sub-conference node at a first time slot and transmitting a second portion of information to a second sub-conference node at a second time slot.

CUI, at paragraphs [0055] to [0059] discloses a system that groups callers into a “potential mixing group” and a “no mixing group” depending on a speech activity value assigned to each caller. However, at paragraph [0058], CUI states that all of the participants in the potential mixing group receive audio streams from the mixing unit and callers in the no mixing group receive audio streams. However, CUI does not disclose that the potential mixing group receives a first audio stream and that the no mixing group receives a second audio stream.

Accordingly, nowhere can CUI be seen to disclose or to suggest transmitting a first portion of information to a first sub-conference node at a first time slot and transmitting a second portion of information to a second sub-conference node at a second time slot.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 27 and its related dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 33, 40, and 46 relate to a mixer, a method, and an apparatus, respectively in which a first portion of conference information or data streams are transmitted to a first sub-conference and a second portion of conference information or data streams are transmitted to a second sub-conference. In view of the foregoing, independent claim 33, 40, and 46 and their related dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed by this response. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-4982.

Respectfully submitted,

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